

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

----- 035702

R 151031Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0299

D/PW FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: AMCIT CHARLES DEAN/SOTH PHETRASY VISIT

REFS: A) STATE 009345

B) VIENTIANE 0256

1. AUSTRALIAN CHARGE ZOLLER CAME TO EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 14, BRINGING DAVID GOSS (MINISTER OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK, WHO IS ABOUT TO RETURN TO CANBERRA AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA) FOR PREVIOUSLY-SCHEDULED COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR.

2. ZOLLER AMPLIFIED TO SOME EXTENT ON POSTPONEMENT OF SOTH'S MISSION (REF B). HE SAID DECISION WAS COMMUNICATED TO HIS EMBASSY AND TO PRESS UNILATERALLY BY VIENTIANE SIDE, WHICH HAD CONCLUDED THAT VISIT WAS NOT PROPITIOUS NOW BECAUSE OF SHARMAN'S CONTINUED DETENTION. ZOLLER SAID IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SOTH AND FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WERE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECEPTION SOTH'S MISSION WOULD GET. IN AFTERNOON CONVERSATION JANUARY 13, SOTH HAD WORRIED ONLY ABOUT TOUGH PRESS QUESTIONS; BY MORNING JANUARY 14, IT WAS PROSPECT OF
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DEMONSTRATIONS THAT BOTHERED HIM.

3. ZOLLER UNDERSTANDS THAT BOTH SIDES OF PGNU INTEND TO RAISE SUBJECT AT TODAY'S SCHEDULED CABINET MEETING IN LUANG PRABANG AND HAS IMPRESSION THAT SOTH MAY BE SHOPPING FOR A NEW VIENTIANE SIDE DEPUTY CHIEF TO REPLACE HOUMPHANH SAIGNASITH WHEN AID-SEEKING MISSION HITS THE ROAD AGAIN FOR NEW ZEALAND AND FOR INDONESIA.

4. ZOLLER PERSONALLY DID NOT APPEAR TO SHARE OUR SATISFACTION OVER POSTPONEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOA MIGHT NOW BE SPARED TOUGH INTERPELLATION BY PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION ABOUT RECEIVING SOTH WHILE SHARMAN REMAINED IN DETENTION.

5. WHOLE AUSTRALIAN APPROACH TO SHARMAN/DEAN CASE HAS BEEN LESS THAN VIGOROUS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHARMAN'S FIANCEE HAS NOW RENTED QUARTERS HERE AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO REMAIN IN VIENTIANE INDEFINITELY. SHE VISITS AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DAILY, BUT ZOLLER IS MORE CONCERNED WITH "FINDING SOMETHING NEW TO TELL HER EACH DAY" THAN WITH USING HER PRESENCE TO ADVANTAGE; E.G., BY TAKING HER TO CALL ON LPF OFFICIALS.

6. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ENERGIZE THE AUSTRALIANS HERE. THIS TASK MAY NOT BE MADE EASIER BY RETURN OF AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK FROM BANGKOK, SINCE HE HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED MUCH ENTHUSIASM ON THIS ISSUE IN THE PAST. WHITEHOUSE

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(SHARMAN, NEIL)
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SHARMAN, NEIL, (DEAN, CHARLES), (SOTH PETHRASY),